

Federal grants will create jobs and keep communities safe

Washington, DC - Congressman Adler today announced support of bipartisan legislation that would put an additional 50,000 police officers on the street over the next five years. The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Improvement Act authorizes \$1.25 billion in hiring grants that will create or save local law enforcement jobs and keep families safe. The bill passed is expected to pass today.

"Safety must be government's highest priority," Congressman Adler said. **"We need to keep kids safe, prevent cutbacks at New Jersey's police stations, and create well-paying public safety jobs. This bill does that."**

The COPS Improvement Act reinvigorates the successful COPS program of 1994. Under the original program, which put more than 117,000 local law enforcement officers on the street between 1995 and 2005, the United States experienced a significant drop in crime rates.

In addition, the legislation would:

- Re-authorize \$350 million a year for COPS technology grants and \$200 million a year for the hiring of community prosecutors.
- Re-authorize hiring programs for general community policing, local counter-terrorism officers, and school resource officers.
- Establish the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services as a distinct office within the Department of Justice.
- Authorizes a Troops-to-Cops program that encourages local police agencies to hire former military personnel who are honorably discharged from military service.